

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (cancelled):

Claim 19 (new): A lighting element (1, 11, 21, 31) comprising a luminescent surface containing a layer system with a base electrode layer (7, 17, 27, 37) made from an electrically conductive material and directly or indirectly arranged thereon a translucent dielectric layer (5, 15, 25, 35) with a front surface and a back surface facing the base electrode, wherein the dielectric layer (5, 15, 25, 35) contains an arrangement of pores (8, 18, 28, 38) extending between the front and back surfaces and the pores (8, 18, 28, 38) are open to the front surface, and emitter rods (4, 14, 24, 34) of an electrically conductive material are arranged within pores, wherein the emitter rods are connected to the base electrode in an electrically conductive manner, and opposite the emitter rods is a translucent counter-electrode of an electrically conductive material, and between the emitter rods and the counter-electrode is arranged a luminescent material, the layer system further comprises a counter-electrode (2, 12, 22, 32) layer covering the pore cavities (8, 18, 28, 38) and arranged directly or indirectly on the front surface of the dielectric layer, and luminescent material (3, 13, 23, 33) is arranged between the emitter rods (4, 14, 24, 34) and the layer of counter-electrode (2, 12, 22, 32), and the dielectric layer (5) is a spacer which separates the base electrode (7, 17, 27, 37) and the counter-electrode (2, 12, 22, 32).

Claim 20 (new): A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein the emitter rods (4, 14, 24, 34) extend over a distance

of less than the pore length and extend no closer than two pore diameters to the front surface of the pores.

Claim 21 (new): A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein the luminescent material is arranged as a layer (23) covering the pore cavities (28), directly or indirectly on the front surface of the dielectric layer (25), and the counter-electrode (22) is arranged directly or indirectly on the exposed surface of the luminescent layer (23).

Claim 22 (new): A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein the luminescent material (3, 13) is arranged in the pore cavity (8, 18) between the emitter rods (4, 14) and the pore openings.

Claim 23 (new): A lighting element according to claim 20, wherein the luminescent material is arranged as a layer (3) on the exposed surface of inner walls of the pores to form a central pore cavity.

Claim 24 (new): A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein a layer of intermediate electrode (40) of a conductive material surrounding the pore openings is arranged directly or indirectly on the dielectric layer (35), and the counter-electrode (32) is arranged over the intermediate electrode (40), wherein between the counter-electrode (32) and the intermediate electrode (40) is arranged at least one luminescent layer (33) covering the pore openings and/or a further dielectric layer.

Claim 25 (new): A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein the dielectric layer (5, 15, 25, 35) is an anodised layer of an aluminium oxide.

Claim 26 (new): A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein the base electrode (7, 17, 27, 37) is made from aluminium or an aluminium alloy and the dielectric layer (5, 15, 25, 35) is an aluminium oxide alloy produced by means of anodisation directly from the base electrode.

Claim 27 (new): A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein the counter-electrode (2, 12, 22, 32) comprises a layer of a transparent and conducting electrode.

Claim 28 (new): A lighting element according to claim 25, wherein the layer is indium tin oxide.

Claim 29 (new) A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein the lighting element is a cold cathode field emission device and the base electrode (7, 17, 27, 37) is a base cathode, the emitter rods (4, 14, 24, 34) are emitter cathodes and the counter-electrode (2, 12, 22, 32) is the anode and the luminescent material (3, 13, 23, 33) is stimulated by the electron beams emitted from the emitter rods and the pore cavity (8, 18, 28, 38) is partly or fully evacuated.

Claim 30 (new): A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein the pore cavity (8, 18, 28, 38) contains a plasma-forming inert gas, and the luminescent material (3, 13, 23, 33) is stimulated under gas discharge processes under alternating current conditions.

Claim 31 (new): A lighting element according to claim 28, wherein lighting element operates on basis of electroluminescence whereby the luminescent substance (3, 13, 23, 33) is stimulated by the application of an electric field.

Claim 32 (new): A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein one or more translucent protective layers are arranged on the counter-electrode (2, 12, 22, 32) wherein the protective layers serve to seal the pores to prevent the exchange of gases to maintain a permanent vacuum.

Claim 33 (new): A lighting element according to claim 19, wherein the lighting element has a matrix addressing of the base electrode and/or counter-electrode for directing the light emission of individual surface points or surface sections to build a display.

Claim 34 (new): A method of making a luminous element according to claim 19 comprising the steps of

- a) providing a base electrode (7, 17, 27, 37) made of aluminium,
- b) providing a porous dielectric anodic aluminium oxide layer (5, 15, 25, 35) by anodising the base electrode,
- c) providing wire-like emitter rods (4, 14, 24, 34) in the pores of the dielectric layer having back ends and front ends, where the front ends of the emitter rods lie below the front surface of the dielectric layer,
- d) providing the pores (8, 18, 28, 38) and/or the front surface of the dielectric layer with a layer of luminescent material before or after the deposit of the emitter rods, and
- e) providing the front surface of the dielectric layer directly or indirectly with a layer of a counter-electrode (2, 12, 22, 32).

Claim 35 (new): A method according to claim 34, wherein the exposed surface of the pore walls is coated with a luminescent material (3).

Claim 36 (new): A method according to claim 34, wherein the counter-electrode comprises a layer of indium tin oxide and the counter-electrode (2, 12, 22, 32) is applied to the dielectric layer in a vacuum coating procedure.

Claim 37 (new): A lighting element according to claim 19 comprises one of a flat lighting element on walls and facades of buildings, a background light source for liquid crystal displays (LCD) and a self-illuminating display or sign.